

THE EUGENICS SOCIETY.

ANNUAL REPORT
1930-31.

Offices:
20, GROSVENOR GARDENS
S.W.1.

Eugenics Society, 1930-31.

Hon. President: MAJOR LEONARD DARWIN, Sc.D.

President: SIR BERNARD MALLET, K.C.B.

Vice-Presidents:

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Hon. Treasurer: B. S. BRAMWELL, M.A., LL.B.

Hon. Secretaries: D. WARD CUTLER, M.A., HON. MRS. GRANT DUFF.

Hon. Librarian: MISS E. CORRY.

Gen. Secretary: C. P. BLACKER, M.C., M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P.

Honorary Members:

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OBJECTS.

I. Persistently to set forth the National Importance of Eugenics in order to modify public opinion, and create a sense of responsibility in the respect of bringing all matters pertaining to parenthood under the domination of Eugenic ideals.

II. To spread a knowledge of the laws of heredity so far as they are surely known, and so far as that knowledge may affect the improvement of the race.

III. To further Eugenic Teaching, at home, in the schools, and elsewhere.

"*The Eugenics Review*," the journal of the Society, is published quarterly, price Three Shillings per number, or Twelve Shillings per annum, post free.

Applications for Fellowship and Membership should be addressed to the Secretary, Eugenics Society, 20, Grosvenor Gardens, London, S.W.1. Fellows, who are elected by the Council and vote on all matters concerning the constitution, pay one guinea per annum; Members pay ten shillings per annum. Both Fellows and Members receive the EUGENICS REVIEW free, are entitled to attend lectures, discussions and general meetings, and have the use of the library.

Those who are not members can subscribe for the EUGENICS REVIEW. Communications regarding subscriptions to the EUGENICS REVIEW should be addressed to Messrs. Macmillan & Co., Ltd., St. Martin's Street, London, W.C.2.

Editorial Communications should be addressed to The Editorial Committee. Books and Periodicals for review should be addressed to The Editor, Eugenics Society, 20, Grosvenor Gardens, S.W.1.

LIBRARY AND OFFICE HOURS: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1930.

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Rooms of the Royal Society, Burlington House, on Tuesday, May 20th, 1930 at 4 p.m. Sir Bernard Mallet, K.C.B., in the Chair.

MINUTES. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday, May 8th 1929, were read and signed.

ANNUAL REPORT. The Chairman, on behalf of the Council presented the Annual Report, which was adopted.

FINANCIAL REPORT. The Honorary Treasurer presented the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st. December 1929, the adoption of which was moved by Dr. Binnie Dunlop, seconded by Dr. Aikman and carried.

The Chairman then called upon Major Darwin to say a few words regarding the Society's late benefactor, Mr. Henry Twitchin. Major Darwin read extracts from several letters which showed that Mr. Twitchin became interested in the subject of Eugenics, partly through his experiences as a large stockbreeder in Australia, and partly owing to the unsoundness of his own parentage. In 1922 he had written that he first became interested in Eugenics about 25 years before, and it was in 1912 that he made his first will in favour of the Eugenics Society. The last will, leaving the Society residuary legatee of his estate was made in 1926, a codicil increasing the amount of the residue having been added on the day he died. Major Darwin said he would like to point out that the estimate of £100,000 as reported in the newspapers was unfortunately an exaggeration. The exact amount was difficult to state accurately at present, as the property was mostly in France and Australia. It would, however, amount to a very substantial sum, and in the spending of this money he felt that it was essential that Mr. Twitchin's views and wishes should be remembered.

RE-ORGANISATION. The Chairman announced that the Council had been giving consideration to some minor changes in the organisation of the Society. It was proposed that the following should be nominated as Vice-Presidents:—

Dr. C. J. Bond.
Lady Chambers.
Dr. R. A. Fisher.
Professor E. W. MacBride.
Professor E. B. Poulton.
The Right Hon. Lord Salvesen.

This was carried.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. It was also proposed that the Honorary Officers' Committee should become the Executive Committee, which should consist of the Honorary Officers with the addition of one or two members of the Council, the names of Professor Huxley and Dr. Blacker being suggested. This was carried.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENTS, HONORARY OFFICERS AND COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1930-31. Ballot papers were handed to all fellows present, and the Chairman appointed Mrs. Hodson and Dr. Binnie Dunlop as scrutineers. A clean ballot was declared.

PRESIDENT. Sir Bernard Mallet was unanimously elected President.
VICE-PRESIDENTS AND HONORARY OFFICERS. (To be known in future as the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE). The Chairman moved the election of the Executive Committee as under.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.—	Dr. Bond	Prof. MacBride.
	Lady Chambers	Lord Salvesen.
	Dr. Fisher	Prof. Poulton.

HONORARY SECRETARIES. D. Ward Cutler Esq. Hon. Mrs. Grant Duff.

HON TREASURER. B. S. Bramwell, Esq.

HON. LIBRARIAN. Miss E. Corry.

This was carried.

The Chairman asked the Meeting to re-elect Messrs West and Drake as Auditors of the Society. This was seconded by Mr. Bramwell and carried.

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ANNUAL REPORT, 1930-31.

GENERAL.

With the exception of the financial statement which ends on December 31st, 1930 the following Report covers the period between January 1st 1930 and April 1st, 1931. A number of factors have contributed to make the period under review a notable one. The Society's financial position has been much strengthened by a considerable legacy left to it by Mr. Henry Twitchin, a previous benefactor. There has been a conspicuous increase in public interest, not only in the general subject of eugenics, but also in the particular activities of the Society. This interest has been stimulated by events such as the publication of the Mental Deficiency Report, the Conference of the International Federation of Eugenic Organisations which was held in September 1930 at Hinton St. Mary, and the Church Congress held in September 1930 at Newport, at which a debate on eugenics took place. Much publicity was given to these conferences. The publication of Sir George Newman's Report on the Health of the School Child also touched closely upon eugenics, as has done the limited authorisation given by the Ministry of Health to local authorities to give information on birth control to those women for whom such advice is indicated on medical grounds. The pronouncement of the Lambeth Conference on birth control has also received extensive press notice, and has excited widespread discussion.

Roman Catholic opposition to eugenics has been strengthened in the course of the past year by the Encyclical of the Pope entitled "Casti Connubii" attacking birth control and sterilization, and by a later papal pronouncement specifically condemning eugenics and the education of children on matters of sex.

The chief activity of the Society has been its propaganda to legalise voluntary eugenic sterilization. This proposal has received widespread support, and has interested many people in the more general aspects of eugenics.

It is with much regret that the resignation of Professor and Mrs. E. W. MacBride from the Society is announced. Professor MacBride has been a Vice-Chairman of the Society for ten years, and has been a staunch and loyal supporter of eugenics from its earliest days. It would be difficult to exaggerate the debt which the Eugenics Society owes to Professor MacBride.

The following changes in the staff have taken place: In October Dr. C. P. Blacker was appointed General Secretary of the Society. The staff therefore now consists of the following:—

Mr. Eldon Moore	Editor.
Mrs. C. B. S. Hodson	Lecturer.
Mrs. G. Collyer	Business Secretary.
Miss G. W. Dunn	Stenographer.
Miss F. M. Perry	Stenographer.
Dr. C. P. Blacker	General Secretary.

FINANCE.

The outstanding event of the year was the munificent bequest of the late Mr. Henry Twitchin who died on 19th March 1930. Mr. Twitchin had for long taken an interest in the work of the Society and had made anonymously a subscription of £1,000 annually to its funds. Under his will he made the Society his residuary legatee. There has been a tendency in certain quarters to exaggerate the amount which will eventually come to the Society. Portions of the estate are very difficult to realise to advantage in the present state of world depression. It seems probable however that the Society will ultimately receive a sum of between fifty and sixty thousand pounds. This should give it the opportunity to expand its activities in many directions if the portion of its income expended on administration is kept within due bounds.

From the statement of accounts it will be observed that the Society's expenditure for the year ended 31st December 1930 was in excess of its income by no less a sum than £1289 1s. 4d. This bald statement requires explanation. As in the previous year the expenditure includes that on Research and "Family Councils"

for which special funds had been provided and brought forward. The late Mr. Twitchin had been in the habit of contributing his annual subscription in two half-yearly instalments of £500 each. The first of these was paid in January 1930 but as his death intervened the second instalment was naturally not received. Up to 31st December no income had been received from the bequest. Looking to the peculiar and transitory position, the Council felt justified in continuing the programme of work it had outlined. Since the close of the year the Society has received certain income from the bequest.

REVIEW.

After the publication of the October number, Mr. Ward Cutler, who had hitherto given a great deal of time to acting as 'liaison officer' between the editor and the Council, was forced by pressure of work to resign. The Council deeply regretted his departure and expressed its warmest appreciation of his services in the capacity for over two years. The editor also wishes to record his regret at losing a very wise and loyal colleague.

Mr. Cutler's place has been taken by an Editorial Committee consisting of Lady Chambers, Dr. R. A. Fisher and Dr. R. Langdon-Down.

At the same time the editor resigned his position as Chief Officer of the Imperial Bureau of Animal Genetics (Edinburgh), in order to give more time to the development of the *Review*—a development, however, which is necessarily conditioned by the funds placed at his disposal for publicity.

LIBRARY.

Some 82 books have been added to the library during the year, bringing up the number to 2082. The new catalogue, issued during 1930, has served to stimulate borrowing, but the users of the library still form a very small proportion of the members of the Society. Many additions have been made to the classified pamphlets and articles, and the bibliography contains all reviews appearing in the *Eugenic Review*, and others, under a more specialized classification. Pamphlets have been more freely in circulation, but the bibliography is still very rarely consulted. The Council wishes to express its appreciation of Miss Corry's conscientious and painstaking work as Hon. Librarian.

GALTON DINNER.

The Galton Dinner took place on Monday, February 16th, at the Rembrandt Hotel. It was followed by an address by Sir J. Arthur Thomson, M.A., LL.D., entitled 'Warnings from Nature.' In the absence of the President of the Society, Sir Bernard Mallet, the Chair was taken by the Very Rev. the Dean of St. Paul's. A vote of thanks was proposed by Sir Gowland Hopkins, Pres.R.S., and seconded by Admiral Sir Herbert Richmond. The guests of the Society for the evening were: Admiral Sir Herbert Richmond, K.C.B., and Lady Richmond; Sir Gowland Hopkins, P.R.S., Lady Thomson, Sir Squire Sprigge, M.D., F.R.C.P.; and Professor Hogben, D.Sc. There were 126 persons present at the Dinner.

PROPAGANDA.

This report seems a convenient moment for introducing some general consideration of recent propaganda work. First, it must be emphasised that this is essentially an interim year, as it covers the period in which the Education Secretary has ceased to hold responsibility for the general organization of propaganda under the Committee. Dr. Ward Cutler who was supervising the general work of the Society for the year 1929/30 relinquished his work in November on the appointment of Dr. C. P. Blacker as General Secretary, and at that date, work for the session had only been partially arranged. In fact, the two previous years should fairly be regarded as a transition period, for changes consequent on Major Darwin's resignation as President, together with restrictions imposed by financial considerations, have made it impossible in recent years to prosecute the system of propaganda on which the Society's work was previously conducted.

Nevertheless, this winter has been one of considerable activity, largely due to the concrete policy for legalising voluntary sterilization. Those actually taking meetings can testify to the increase of interest and enthusiasm stimulated by these

proposals for checking pathological heredity. Particular mention should be made of the new openings secured for the Society in women's organizations by the steady and enthusiastic work done by Miss Hilda Pocock. Under the re-allocation of duties for the officers of the Society, Mrs. Hodson has been appointed as part-time staff lecturer and her work mainly lies in taking meetings outside London, as arranged by the General Secretary.

In the course of the period under review Mrs. Hodson gave 63 lectures to mixed audiences excluding the lectures given at Leicester, and Miss Pocock gave 59 lectures to various women's organizations. The following have also spoken for the Society:—

Dr. Aikman, three times.
 Lady Askwith, three times.
 Miss Belfield, once.
 Mr. Cecil Binney, twice.
 Dr. Blacker, twelve times.
 Professor Holmes, twice.
 Dr. Langdon-Down, twice.
 Mr. Lidbetter, once.
 Professor MacBride, twice.
 Rev. J. C. Pringle, twice.

Many fellows and members of the Society also spoke at meetings on eugenics without specifically representing the Society. Exhibitions were also held at the following places:—

Dudley
 Finsbury.
 Manchester, Royal Agricultural Show.
 St. Helen's
 Warrington.

The Societies films were shown on two occasions at Renfrew and Cardiff.

LEICESTERSHIRE SCHEME. As early as the autumn of 1929, the National Health Insurance Committee for Leicestershire organized a local conference on Racial Decay which was addressed by Mr. C. J. Bond, C.M.G., F.R.C.S., and Mrs. Hodson.

As an outcome, a sub-committee for Eugenics Services in the area was formed, to which Mrs. Hodson was co-opted and in the intervening period, a scheme has been worked out as follows:—

- (a) EDUCATION: After due conference with the various groups concerned, (namely the County Education Authority and the local branches of the National Union of Teachers), an outline scheme for introducing simple biology, including heredity into the curriculum of the elementary schools under the Board of Education Health syllabus has been drawn up; as a preliminary, a short course of three lectures has been offered to any of the school staffs sufficiently interested to avail themselves thereof in the six areas of the county. In four areas, these courses have been completed and the first steps taken in the other two. The Secondary Schools of the area are being encouraged to make wider use of the syllabus accepted by the Headmaster's Association for "Health Teaching in Secondary Schools." The adult population is being approached, and further facilities are offered for biology courses bearing on human heredity through the Worker's Educational Association. One intensive course on biology has been given at Vaughan College by Dr. E. Miles Thomas, and an Extension Course of ten lectures on Eugenics (the first being an address by Mr. C. J. Bond) has been given by Mrs. Hodson, also at Vaughan College. A simple leaflet on Eugenics is being sent out with the insurance cards, after due endorsement of the Central Council for Health Education. Interest is also stimulated by lectures to numerous popular and religious organisations.
- (b) LIBRARY: A small loan library has been acquired at the central offices in Leicester, 144, London Road, and the Secretary, Mr. Crew, who, with Mr. Bond, is mainly responsible for the inception of the scheme, as well as for its organisation step by step, is making this available for readers. The County libraries and the Teacher's libraries are also being encouraged to supply standard books on eugenics and biology.

- (c) **ADVICE ON HEREDITY:** The Committee of Insurance Practitioners is issuing a memorandum to all serving the County area announcing that an advisory panel is at the service of any who desire special information or help in regard to their patients. This includes not only those enquiring before marriage as to their suitability for parenthood, but advice for any families in which familial troubles are suspected. Dr. C. P. Blacker has been elected to serve on this panel, together with Mr. Bond, Dr. Montague Dixon, chairman of the Eugenics Services Sub-Committee and the local Medical Committee and Mrs. Hodson. At a recent meeting, the Council of the Eugenics Society passed a resolution authorising the Staff Lecturer to continue this work in Leicestershire as part of her official duties.

Fellows may have noticed some reference in the press to two cases of sterilization which have been performed in Leicester. A third was recently added to this number which has not received publicity. The work is as yet of modest proportions; its interest lies mainly in the fact that it is a first attempt to devise a technique for making eugenics an intimate part of the preventive medicine policy and health services offered to our people. Leicestershire is a particularly happy area in which to make such an attempt. Mr. Bond's well-known interest in eugenics and his numerous genetical researches have made the problems of heredity familiar to many in the city and county, and he is a leader followed with affectionate respect by people of all ranks and of every shade of opinion. Mr. Crew's splendid services in National Health Insurance secure interest and support for any fresh move by him, and his personality makes him generally popular, so that this work begins under the most favourable possible auspices.

MEMBERS MEETINGS.

Only six meetings were announced for the session 1930/31 in view of the small attendance noted last year. The Council, as far as possible, arranged for alternate afternoon and evening meetings to suit the convenience of Fellows and Members. The President and Council of the Linnean Society have been most helpful and courteous in the arrangements made, enabling us to offer tea before the afternoon meetings. The first meeting took the form of a discussion on Quinquennial Health Assessments. Sir Humphry Rolleston, K.C.B., M.D., presided and the chief speaker was Dr. E. B. Turner. Mr. W. T. J. Gun, F.R.Hist.S., F.S.G., read a paper on the Heredity and Environment of our Empire Builders at the November Meeting, and in December, there was again a symposium on Heredity in Education. Dr. Maitland Radford, Medical Officer of Health for Shoreditch, spoke on heredity as part of the public health problem, and Mr. M. D. Hill, (recently of Eton,) brought forward practical points on making heredity teaching available in the public schools while Miss Louise Burrows, head teacher in the Leicestershire County area, spoke of the need and possibilities of education in heredity in elementary schools, describing in outline the scheme which she and others in Leicestershire are trying to work. Mr. Bramwell, the treasurer took the chair.

At the January Meeting which was limited to Fellows and Members, Dr. Blacker gave a resumé of the Society's sterilization policy dwelling particularly upon the problems and difficulties that have been encountered, and inviting discussion. Fellows and Members were thus given an opportunity of expressing their views upon the various aspects of the Society's policy, which were taken into careful account by the Committee for Legalising Eugenic Sterilization. Mr. Cecil Binney also spoke very clearly on the legal position.

The fifth meeting was on the subject of heredity as a practical issue in life insurance calculations. Mr. Palin Elderton read a most interesting paper which evoked some discussion.

STERILIZATION.

Shortly after the last Annual General Meeting, the Propaganda Sub-Committee, referred to in the Annual Report for 1929-30, became the Committee for Legalising Eugenic Sterilization. Through the generosity of Mr. C. F. Chance, the Duke of Newcastle and Mrs. J. D. Paton, the Committee was enabled to give a dinner at Grosvenor House on June 12th to a group of influential political and scientific persons by whom the views of the Committee were sympathetically considered.

The first edition of 10,000 copies of its pamphlet 'Eugenic Sterilization' having been exhausted, the Committee was enabled through the generosity of Lord Riddell to bring out a second rather larger edition, containing the text of the proposed Sterilization Bill. The thanks of the Society are due to Lord Riddell for his generous donation.

The Society was represented at a number of meetings held in the autumn of 1930, among others at the Mental Hospitals Association, the Public Health Congress and the Central Association for Mental Welfare. Two representatives from the Committee were also received by the Medical Committee of the House of Commons, as a result of which meeting Major A. G. Church, member for Central Wandsworth, has consented to introduce the Society's bill under the ten-minutes' rule.

A pamphlet setting forth the legal aspects of voluntary eugenic sterilization has been written for the Society by Mr. Cecil Binney, barrister-at-law, and has met with a favourable reception.

The Society's proposals have been sympathetically received by a considerable number of local authorities and of private societies, and have been supported by a large number of resolutions from different bodies.

It has been decided that the Sterilization Bill, which will be introduced in the House of Commons, will relate to mental defectives alone. It will, therefore, be a shorter bill than the one printed at the end of the second edition of the buff pamphlet which relates collectively to mental defectives, mental convalescents and sufferers from hereditary disease other than mental deficiency and insanity.

The thanks of the Society are due to Lady Cory who kindly lent her drawing room on two occasions for drawing-room meetings.

The attempt to get voluntary eugenic sterilization legalised has been the chief activity of the Society in the course of the last year, and in addition to receiving considerable public support has brought many new fellows and members to the Society.

PROPOSED BOOK ON EUGENIC PROGNOSIS.

The General Secretary is now editing a book on prognosis in inherited disease. This book will be written primarily for the general practitioner and will aim at providing him with sufficient knowledge of the commoner hereditary diseases to enable him, after scrutinising the pedigree of patients consulting him, to inform them what are the chances of their having children who will exhibit or carry a given disease. The various hereditary diseases have been divided into sixteen sections and each section will be written by a specialist in the particular disease. There is no such work in existence at present and this book should fill a much felt need.

PEDIGREE STUDY.

The Society will shortly produce a schedule to facilitate people charting their own family pedigrees. These schedules contain instructions and material, made on specially durable paper, for the preparation of permanent family records which can be kept from generation to generation. These schedules are not intended to yield scientific data for genetical studies; they aim rather at providing practical instruction as to how to put into effect Sir Francis Galton's exhortation that everyone should study his own family pedigree.

RESEARCH.

Owing to pressure upon the time of the secretary of the Research sub-committee, it has not been found possible to press forward the work of this committee as rapidly as was desired. The work of preparing material for publication is however well advanced and it is hoped shortly to make a definite announcement on the subject.

The Council at their meeting on 11th February last added Professor Hogben of the London School of Economics to the committee and he has very kindly agreed to serve,

FELLOWSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP.

We regret to announce the deaths of the following Fellows and Members:—

W. J. Berryman, Esq.
 G. Blomquist, Esq.
 Hon. Mrs. Brodrick.
 Right Hon. Lord Brotherton.
 Dr. W. Jethro Brown.
 Dr. John Clegg.
 Dr. R. Cords.
 Arnold Lupton, Esq.
 Lt.-Col. H. G. G. Mackenzie, D.S.O., M.D.
 Dr. Amador Nicholas.
 Captain J. Straker.
 A. J. Sulley, Esq.
 J. E. Titley, Esq.
 H. Twitchin, Esq.

An analysis is presented of the Society's Register for the period January 1930 to March 1931.

				<i>Life Fellows.</i>	<i>Fellows.</i>	<i>Members.</i>
Total, Dec., 1929	....	....	....	61	347	224
Elections, 1930/31	....	....	....	6	42	87
				<hr/> 67	<hr/> 389	<hr/> 311
<i>Less:</i>						
Deceased	....	....	....	2	7	5
Resigned, etc.	....	....	....		24	19
				<hr/> 65	<hr/> 358	<hr/> 287
Affiliated Societies		1	2
				<hr/> 65	<hr/> 359	<hr/> 289

Increase in Fellows and Members, 78.

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(Sgd.) WEST & DRAKE,
Chartered Accountants.

* Committee for Legalising Eugenic Sterilization.

THE EUGENICS SOCIETY.

20, GROSVENOR GARDENS,

LONDON, S.W.1.

27th April, 1931.

SIR OR MADAM,

We beg to inform you that the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held **at the ROOMS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W.1.** (by kind permission of the President and Council of the Royal Society), **on Wednesday, May 13th, 1931,** at 4 o'clock.

AGENDA.

To receive the Report of the Council for the past year.

To receive the Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet.

To elect the President, Vice-Presidents, Council, and Hon. Officers for the year 1931/1932.

We are, SIR OR MADAM,

Your Obedient Servants,

URSULA GRANT DUFF,	{	<i>Honorary Secretaries</i>
D. WARD CUTLER,		
C. P. BLACKER,		<i>Gen. Secretary.</i>

Eugenics Society.

"Eugenics is the study of agencies, under social control, that may improve or impair the racial qualities of future generations, either physically or mentally."

Francis Galton.

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SIR ARTHUR KEITH, LL.D., F.R.S., F.R.C.S.	

"The Consultative Council shall consist of eminent persons, whether Fellows of the Society or not, who sympathise with the desire to benefit mankind by the utilization of the knowledge of the laws of natural inheritance, and whose support and advice would be of value to the Society.

Members of the Consultative Council, by consenting to join that body, shall not be held in any way responsible for the policy adopted by the Society." (See Rules.)

